

Meeting Minutes

Meeting:	Principal's Advisory Council on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	Date and time:	March 6, 2024
Location:	Richardson Hall Room 315 (Teams link available)		
Attendees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Aldersey • Oyedeji Ayonrinde • Ben Bolden • Jennifer Campbell • Juan Francisco Chavez Ramirez • John DiPaolo • Ishana Gopaul • Klodiana Kolomitro • Mika Henry • Melinda Knox • Warren Mabee • Chineze Onuoha • Ellie Sadinsky • Stephanie Simpson • Marcus Taylor • Gavan Watson • Amy Wu 		
Regrets:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setareh Ghahari, Sandra Den Otter, Karen Bertrand, Nathan Splinter, Brian O'Neill, Brian Amsden, Victor Odele 		

1. Land Acknowledgement and Chair's Welcome

2. Approval of Minutes – February 2024 meeting

2. Updates:

- SDG Week events are currently happening – creating great conversations between faculty and students on their research.

3. Principal's Feedback on Operational Framework and Discussion of Next Steps

- Good feedback from Principal Deane – we are on the right track with OF.
- How do we stimulate engagement with SDGs with staff and faculty in a challenging time, within budget constraints? Being sensitive to this consideration and the current university environment.
- How to stimulate engagement at the student level to move things forward?
- Are we at the right scale with our goals? PowerPoint does not need further detail, but a supplementary document with further detail (resources, evaluation, dimensions of achievements/metrics for success) separately would be good.
- Responsibility and accountability measures – thinking about decentralization, work happening across different departments with report back.
- Resources – work on a supplementary document to identify the resources needed. Thinking about how to maximize impact we can make with a modest price tag.
- Principal plans to attend the May council meeting, given status of OF now that he has seen, suggests it is reasonable for us to do a final presentation of the OF to him at the May meeting.

4. Operational Framework Round Table Discussion

- Statement on reporting and accountability – suggestion of a working group to figure out what is our structure for change management and accountability, looking at structures that already exist on campus and how to build a structure for the year to come.

Research impact:

- For keyword query, Marcus and Warren worked on a refined key words list – can use this for the analysis and mapping, as it was developed at Queen's with student and faculty.
- Could also use the pre-existing search terms in SciVal and Scopus – this is what is used for the SDG rankings.
- Awards came up across working groups – should we make a suite of connected awards, or should we separate them?
 - Suggestion of an awards section of the framework, where we outline awards under multiple strategic priorities?
 - Organizational culture as a space to recognize awards across priorities/goals?
 - Awards criteria – working group for terms of reference in the coming year?

Research and Teaching Integration:

- Goals largely focused on Undergrads – how can we include graduate students further in this?
- Spotlight for graduate research work that fits into SDGs from across the university/disciplines. Highlights some of the people doing great SDG research and recognize how they are driving SDG work further. Communications goal.
- Mirror recognition processes of faculty research for graduate student work. Key word search, awards, etc.

Global Engagement:

- Some of the details here can be pulled out to the supplementary document to make this PowerPoint more of a higher-level overview.
- Pause around decolonization outcomes – potentially take this out, as it is hard to measure decolonization through colonial measurements/metrics from within the university.
- How to measure this in an equitable way? How to give voice to our collaborators in decolonial ways? How to have accountability measures so partners are empowered to critique our work/progress?
- Do we have references to national and international partnerships? Exploring membership and greater participation/engagement in international networks.

Queen's in the Community:

- Working on identifying the senior leadership member that fits this goal best for accountability processes.
- Links deeply with Wendy Craig's work on community engagement, working group to connect with Wendy to see how it aligns with her work and goals.

Organizational Culture:

- Move awards/recognition here, and still show the inter-linkages with other priorities.
- Goal about THE ranking in top 10 – concern about this, as THE has more participating universities per year, and rankings are volatile – suggestion to change language to remove the number, using language to articulate engaging with the THE rankings as a metric of success/measurement.
- Suggestions: continues to be “top performing” or among our peer institutions (in Canada, in similar size universities). But how do we make this measurable? Use a percentage or top 25?

5. Overlap of goals

- SDG Certificate – do not need to have this in two places, does this make more sense under Queen's in the Community or Student Learning?
- Work with community engagement on this – work towards SDG-content certificate with community engagement as pedagogy.
- Speak to Wendy Craig on this – Gavan to connect HA with curriculum sub-committee about certificate.
- Partnerships – lots of conversation on the Global Engagement goal about research partnerships. Many partnerships are driven by individuals, not persistent outside of personal working relationships. Use language of SDG-focused reciprocal partnerships? Work on institutional partnerships? Suggestion to pull language from global engagement strategy and focus in on SDGs. Tracking partnerships by SDG as the goal, as many, many partnerships exist but are not centrally known. As new partnerships are built – look at them with SDG-lens. Partnership agreements that would flag SDGs as consideration – not necessarily the driver of partnerships, but part of the process of proposing/solidifying/doing quality assurance on a partnership.

- Change of language from “establish” to “nurture.”
- Conference/Seminar/Gathering – flagging potential overlap between Organizational Culture and Global Engagement both proposing a conference/workshop/seminar. Suggestion to fold workshop/conference from OC into the Principal's Seminar from GE.
- Suggested to tie the conference/seminar gathering into awards ceremony from above discussion – recognition of work on SGDs and presentation of that research/work.
- Room in any gathering for SDG-practitioners from the community?
- Identifying SDG Opportunities Outside the Classroom – these are allies, not directly overlapping.
- Course Tagging and Evaluation – tagging is a tool that is available to us, but course evaluation through an SDG-lens is a larger conversation.

6. Action Items / Next Steps:

- Heather and Danny to update OF based on conversation today.
- Working groups to refine their sections of the OF and articulate metrics and requirements (e.g., financial, staffing) in a separate supplemental document.
 - Danny will build on their previous research on frameworks and OFs at other institutions to suggest how to articulate ours. Heather and Danny will work on a template and share with each group before they meet.
- Heather to take community engagement linked items (e.g., SDG certificate) to Wendy Craig and colleagues to get feedback on wording as well as placement in the Framework (identify best location for duplicated items to be listed).
- Ishana & Heather, and student leaders to strike an additional working group to think through questions of embedding actions within existing structures on campus. (e.g., articulating standing “nodes” or hubs of responsibility/actions on the OF that would report in to the advisory council).
- Working groups to prepare final presentation of their operational framework sections for the next meeting. (update after meeting → April meeting cancelled to allow time for working groups to meet. Final presentation will be in May).